

203. *PITTA STEERII* (Sharpe). (Grant, *Ibis*, 1897, p. 241.)

This *Pitta* (perhaps the most beautiful of the whole genus) was met with by us in the mountains of Central Samar. It delights in a country covered with huge forest, a fairly thick undergrowth, and the ground over which it hops a mass of moss-covered coral-limestone boulders, often of huge dimensions. The island of Gilolo, in which *Pitta maxima* is found, is, according to Dr. Wallace, of much the same formation. I myself was always ill in Samar, and was unable to do much outdoor work; but I once met with this *Pitta* in the forest, although so close that I was unable to shoot it. The young were fully fledged in June. This *Pitta* is called by the Bisayas of Samar "Babaqua," and is said to be more numerous from May to July in that island, so perhaps it is migratory. I doubt whether this species inhabits Leite, as the country traversed by us in that island was either a volcanic clay or covered with boulders of lava, no coral-limestone cropping out in the northern mountains.

Iris and bill black; feet light brown, pinkish at joints.

Juv. Claws, tip of bill, and gape orange.

204. *SARCOPHANOPS SAMARENSIS* Steere. (Grant, *Ibis*, 1897, p. 242.)

This curious bird is by no means common in Samar and Leite, to which islands its distribution is probably confined. It frequents thick forests, and the birds shot by us were feeding on berries.

The wonderful colouring of the soft parts was given by me in the '*Ibis*' for 1897, p. 242.

[To be continued.]

XV.—*Ushant as an Ornithological Station.*—*Notes on the Birds observed at Ushant, at Le Conquet on the west coast of Brittany, and at Alderney.* By WILLIAM EAGLE CLARKE, F.L.S.

WHEN studying the map of Western Europe in connection with the geographical aspect of bird-migration, I became impressed with the importance of the Island of Ushant as an

ornithological station. Ushant appeared to me to lie not only at the diverging point where all those migrants which traverse the southern (French) shores of the Channel and the western coast of France change their course to proceed east or south, according to the season, but also to lie in the course of those birds of passage which, having skirted the western and southern coast-lines of Britain, take their departure from our south-western shores and wing their way southward to their winter-quarters, reversing this route in the spring.

Thus it is an islet situated amid the two main streams of that vast tide of migrants which flows northward in the spring, and ebbs southward in the autumn, along the shores of Western Europe.

Nothing, however, appeared to be known concerning the island ornithologically.

It was a belief in this theory of the importance of Ushant as a station for ornithological observations that led the writer to make an application to the Royal Society for an allotment from the Government Grant, to enable him to visit Ushant for the purpose of making investigations regarding the migration of birds—an application which was fortunately successful.

The following is an account and detailed record of the results obtained by this little expedition, on which I had the advantage of the companionship and co-operation of my friend Mr. T. G. Laidlaw, of Edinburgh.

It had been our intention to devote several weeks to making observations on Ushant, but, as the sequel will show, a remarkable and unexpected experience awaited us, and compelled us reluctantly to modify our plans, with the result that the island of Alderney came within the scope of our peregrinations.

We arrived at the little port of Le Conquet, the place of embarkation for Ushant, situated some twelve miles west of Brest, on the night of the 7th of September last. Early the following morning found us on board the steamer 'Louise,' a small craft which conveys the mails to the Islands of Molène and Ushant: isles which are chiefly associated,

in the public mind, with the loss of that ill-fated liner the 'Drummond Castle,' in 1896. The morning, however, was unpropitious, inasmuch as a dense sea-fog prevailed, and at mid-day the passage was abandoned until the morrow.

Fortunately at Le Conquet there is an estuary, formed of the embouchures of several small rivers. Here at low water there are extensive mud-flats, while several small moist islands are then accessible from the shore. On these attractive feeding-grounds we observed, in the few hours available, Turnstones, Dunlins, Curlew-Sandpipers, Knots, Redshanks, Greenshanks, Common Sandpipers, Ruffs and Reeves, Whimbrels, Curlews, &c. The occurrence of the Knot, Curlew-Sandpiper, &c., as birds of passage, was interesting, but not unexpected, since the western shores of France naturally lie in the direct course of their migrations. In addition, a number of other species of minor interest came under our notice; and since the avifauna of Brittany has not received the attention it deserves, these species will be dealt with in the systematic and concluding section of this contribution.

We were under way at 6 o'clock on the morning of the 9th, and were soon threading our course through those rock-studded and dangerous seas which lie between the mainland and our island goal. A glance at the chart of these waters shows that there extends from the mouth of the Gulf of Brest, in a north-westerly direction, a series of islands and innumerable islets, rocks, and reefs—many of the latter being just awash or partially submerged. This archipelago culminates in the comparatively large island of Ouessant, which we call Ushant. Through the numerous straits, channels, and rocky labyrinths with which the group abounds, a tide rushes at the rate of fourteen knots an hour, rendering the surface of the sea for many square miles a series of races, boils, and swirls, resembling the waters of a mighty torrent rather than those of the ocean. Add to this the remarkably rugged outlines of the stacks and many of the islets, and the quaintness that enshrouds the little out-of-the-world community that dwells upon the island of

Molène, and we have before us scenes which it would be difficult to match elsewhere in European waters.

The birds seen on the voyage were Manx Shearwaters, Cormorants, Shags, Herring-Gulls, Lesser and Greater Black-backed Gulls, Sandwich and Lesser Terns; and among migrants a Common Sandpiper and an Osprey.

A three hours' run brought us to Ushant, the most westerly land of France, and situated twelve miles from the nearest point of the mainland. This island is irregular in outline, for it throws out, as it were, two long parallel arms to the south-west, which enclose the deep Baie de Porspaul; while there are minor promontories to the north-east, north, and north-west. It is about three and a half square miles in area, and does not present any remarkable physical features excepting the wonderful rock-scenery on the west coast, of which more anon. Cliffs face the sea on all sides except the south-west, and these attain their maximum height of 211 feet in the north. The surface of the island has a parched and arid appearance, due to its herbage being closely cropped by the cattle and sheep of the inhabitants. There are, however, several shallow, moist, verdant depressions, down which, no doubt, tiny streams may find their way to the sea during the winter rains. Some corn is grown, and whins flourish in compounds erected for their protection, for these shrubs form an important item of fuel. There are a few trees, of small size, in one or two of the gardens at Lampaul, the chief settlement, at the head of the Baie de Porspaul.

Geologically, the island is composed of foliated granite. This rock in weathering does not form ledges, and this, in a measure, may account for the absence of breeding-stations of sea-fowl on the sheltered eastern cliffs; those on the north and west are wave-swept even in summer, and are consequently not available.

The west coast is exposed to the full force of the Atlantic, and by the fury of its waves the numerous stacks and the irregular face of its lower cliffs have been carved and transformed into all manner of remarkable and fantastic forms.

Indeed, the rock-scenery on the west coast is wild and romantic in the extreme.

Off and close to Ushant lie many hundreds of islets and rocks, only a few of which are of considerable size, but none of them appear to be tenanted during the breeding-season by Gulls, Terns, or other marine species. On the large island of Balanec, which lies some five miles S.E. of Ushant, many "Hirondelles de mer," "Perroquets de mer," "Goëlands," &c. rear their young—at least so we were informed, though we certainly never saw a Puffin in the region.

The island has the surprisingly large population of over two thousand inhabitants. All the men are engaged in the lobster-fishery and appeared to be well-to-do; for a rich and practically inexhaustible harvest of these crustaceans lies among the vast submerged reefs and the rocky seabottom, which extend for miles around Ushant.

There are two lighthouses on the island, namely the Phare du Stif in the north-east, and the Phare de Creach in the south-west. The latter has long been lighted with electricity, and throws out powerful and rapidly revolving beams which can be seen many miles off.

At Ushant we had hoped to remain for several weeks, but we had barely been six days on the island when an immigrant in blue and white arrived: to wit, a sergeant of gendarmes (there are no police on the island). He incessantly dogged our footsteps at close quarters during our rambles, while our place of abode was under his surveillance early and late; and although we were not disposed at first to take any notice of his presence, the espionage at length became so intolerable that we reported the matter to the British Consul at Brest, and requested him to protest to the French authorities against the vexatious treatment to which we were being subjected. This the Consul most obligingly did, but his efforts were unavailing, for the authorities informed the Consul that the gendarme had been sent to watch us by instructions from Paris.

By the advice of the Consul, in order to escape from more

serious unpleasantness, we quitted the island on the 17th of September and returned to Brest. Thus was our Ushant expedition wrecked.

It may be well to state here that our Foreign Office had informed the French Government of our intended visit to Ushant, and its object, long before our advent on the island. Thus the treatment meted out to us is inexplicable*.

During our short sojourn on the island we observed a number of birds. On these I shall now proceed to make a few remarks, reserving for the concluding annotated list the detailed particulars.

The following were doubtless resident species on Ushant:—Raven, Sparrow, Linnet, Corn-Bunting, Yellow Bunting, Sky-Lark, Meadow-Pipit, Rock-Pipit, Stonechat, Redbreast, Hedge-Accentor, Wren, Peregrine Falcon, Ringed Plover, and, perhaps, the Oyster-catcher.

The summer visitors appeared to be only two in number—the Whitethroat and the Swallow.

The birds of passage observed between the 9th and 17th of September—a period of phenomenally fine weather, be it remarked—were the Redwing, Wheatear, Whinchat, White Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, Yellow Wagtail, Hen-Harrier, Sparrow-Hawk, Kestrel, Osprey, Heron, Turtle-Dove, Dotterel, Lapwing, Turnstone, Sanderling, Common Sandpiper, Redshank, Whimbrel, Curlew, Arctic, Common, Lesser, and Sandwich Terns, and Manx and Great Shearwaters. The absence of suitable shores on which to feed and rest accounts, no doubt, for the absence of several of the species

* Perhaps the following extract from 'La Patrie' may throw some light upon the occurrence. Writing in October last, this paper states, on the authority of its Brest correspondent, that "the English are in the habit of visiting Ushant with a view to secure pilots well acquainted with these dangerous seas, and to bribe the islanders with British gold. Only last year, under the pretence of rewarding the islanders for their conduct in connection with the wreck of the 'Drummond Castle,' they scattered a perfect golden shower over the islands. In short, our neighbours, in the time of peace, pave the way for the purchase of traitors in the time of war" (*vide* 'Standard,' Oct. 23, 1898). This, we were credibly informed at Brest, was the true explanation of the situation.

of Wading-birds which we had observed on the mud-flats of the opposite coast at Le Conquet. The brilliant weather, too, was decidedly against any migratory movement, pronounced or otherwise. Some of the species were, however, observed in considerable numbers.

The following species noted may perhaps be best described as winter visitors to the island, though the nesting-grounds of some of them are probably not far distant. These were the Kingfisher, Cormorant, Shag, Common Gull, Herring-Gull, Lesser and Greater Black-backed Gulls, and Kittiwake. Certain of the species observed as birds of passage—the Turnstone, for instance—are also winter residents.

I took with me to Ushant a carefully-prepared series of questions relating to the birds and their migrations as observed on the island, copies of which I left with the "Gardien Chef" of each lighthouse, with a request for answers and such other information bearing upon the subject as they could afford me. These documents I had to abandon on quitting the island. But on mentioning the fact to Mr. Consul Hoare, at Brest, he most kindly offered to see the authorities at the Ponts et Chaussées, under whose jurisdiction the lighthouses fall, and endeavour to procure for me the information I desired. As the result, I have received excellent and most useful answers to my enquiries from each of the Ushant lighthouses.

From these we learn that the island is visited annually by vast numbers of birds of passage, and that on dark, moonless, and starless nights, with easterly winds, during the autumnal migratory period, from 500 to 600 birds are killed at the lantern—among others, Chaffinches, Thrushes, Blackbirds, Wild Ducks, Waterhens, Plovers, Lapwings, Woodcocks, Snipes, and Curlews. As an illustration of the phenomenal numbers which sometimes occur, the Chef of the Phare de Creach informs me that on one night in the autumn of 1888 no fewer than 1500 birds perished by striking the lantern—an extraordinary number, truly; but its accuracy is confirmed and vouched for by the engineer to the lighthouse

authorities, to whom the Consul obligingly referred, at my request.

These reports tell us that the greatest number of migrants appear in October. The following species are mentioned as occurring annually, excluding those in the list of birds of passage already given as coming under the notice of Mr. Laidlaw and myself:—Black and Grey Crows, Starlings, Chaffinches, Goldfinches, Siskins, Bullfinches, Buntings, Goldcrests, Warblers, Thrushes of various species, Martins, Cuckoos, Owls, Falcons, Herons, Wild Geese, Wild Duck, Teal, Ring-Doves, Quails, Land-Rails, Water-Rails, Waterhens, Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Woodcocks, Snipe, Sandpipers, and Gulls of various kind. In addition to these, M. Lucas, the Chef of the Phare du Stif, very pertinently remarks that “*L’île est encore visitée par d’autres espèces d’oiseaux, particulièrement de l’ordre des Passereaux, mais dont les noms me sont inconnus.*”

It is towards the end of autumn that “*les grandes volées*” occur.

Both of these observers agree that here, as elsewhere, fewer migrants are observed in the spring, though the same species appear at that season.

In winters of great cold, and when the Continent is under snow, immense numbers of Starlings, Chaffinches, Thrushes, Blackbirds, Wild Geese, Wild Ducks, Teal, Quails, Water-Rails, Waterhens, Plovers, Lapwings, Snipe, and Woodcock, accompanied by Hawks of various species, seek the milder climate of the island, and usually remain until the end of February.

In mild, moist, rainy winters very few birds indeed visit the island.

According to the same authorities, the following birds nest annually on Ushant:—Ravens, Sparrows, Linnets, Larks, Pipits, Redbreasts, Warblers [Whitethroats], Wrens, and Swallows.

I beg to tender my thanks to these obliging and painstaking observers for their excellent and valuable reports, which do them infinite credit.

There can be no doubt that had we been permitted to remain in peace upon the island until the early days of October, as we intended, we should have obtained some interesting details regarding the species and their movements. Enough, however, thanks chiefly to the lighthouse-keepers, has been demonstrated to prove that Ushant is a station of first-rate importance as an observatory for witnessing the movements of migratory birds; and thus the primary object of our visit has been accomplished.

The Consul strongly advised us to quit France, lest further annoyance should be experienced elsewhere, and we decided to proceed to the Channel Islands, selecting Alderney as being the most favourably situated for our investigations.

It should be remarked that Alderney is singularly destitute of trees, and therefore many of our usual resident and summer birds are absent, while others are uncommon, though some of them may, and do, occur as birds of passage. Here, between the 22nd and 29th of September, we witnessed two decided movements, namely on the 25th and 26th; when, among other species, the Missel-Thrush, Ring-Ouzel, Golderest, Chiffchaff, Willow-Wren, Spotted Flycatcher, Pied Flycatcher, Turtle-Doves, Water-Rail, and Common Snipe appeared as immigrants.

Some of our notes relating to the birds observed on the island are at variance with the experience of the late Mr. Cecil Smith, the author of that useful little book 'The Birds of Guernsey, and neighbouring Islands of Alderney, &c.,' published in 1879. Such critical remarks as I have to offer are reserved for the list, where they will be found under the respective species to which they relate.

I cannot close this contribution without acknowledging, on behalf of Mr. Laidlaw and myself, our indebtedness to Mr. Hoare the Consul and Mr. Bonar the Vice-Consul. These gentlemen both before, during, and after our visit to Ushant, rendered us much assistance; and it is our pleasure as well as our duty to express our grateful appreciation of their courtesy and of the value of the services rendered.

The following is an annotated list of all the species which came under the notice of Mr. Laidlaw and myself at Ushant, as well as at Le Conquet on the west coast of Brittany, and also at Alderney.

1. CORVUS CORAX.

Ushant. The cliffs of Ushant afford a home and nesting-place for a pair of Ravens, whose presence was well-known to the natives. These birds were seen daily in company; but their young had, no doubt, been long since banished from the isle of their birth.

Sark. Three Ravens were seen and heard under the east cliffs on the 29th of September. Mr. Smith, writing in 1879, regards this bird as an occasional straggler and a non-breeding bird on any of the Channel Islands. We have little doubt that the birds observed were natives.

2. CORVUS CORONE.

Le Conquet. Several Carrion-Crows were observed on September 8th.

Alderney. A very common resident species.

3. CORVUS FRUGILEGUS.

Le Conquet. Several Rooks were seen on the 8th of September.

4. CORVUS MONEDULA.

Le Conquet. Several Jackdaws were observed.

Alderney. Very common.

5. PICA RUSTICA.

Le Conquet. Common.

6. GARRULUS GLANDARIUS.

Le Conquet. Common.

7. STURNUS VULGARIS.

Ushant. The lighthouse-keepers inform me that this is an extremely abundant bird of passage, and that it is also common as a winter visitor, especially during severe weather.

At the commencement of the third week of September the Starling had not yet arrived at Ushant; but we picked

up a pair of withered wings of an unfortunate of the previous season.

Alderney. Not uncommon.

8. *LIGURINUS CHLORIS.*

Alderney. Common.

9. *PASSER DOMESTICUS.*

Ushant. A very common resident.

Le Conquet and Alderney. Common and resident.

10. *FRINGILLA CÆLEBS.*

Le Conquet. Observed.

Alderney. The Chaffinch appears to be a decidedly uncommon species on the island: a fact which is probably due to the great scarcity of trees.

11. *LINOTA CANNABINA.*

Ushant. To the Linnet, Ushant offers considerable attractions in its numerous and enclosed furze-coverts, and the bird is consequently a common resident. It was particularly abundant during our stay, when the ranks of the home birds were probably recruited by immigrants.

Le Conquet and Alderney. Common.

12. *EMBERIZA MILIARIA.*

Ushant. The Corn-Bunting is common and resident on the island. It frequents the enclosures and the cultivated patches.

We failed to detect this bird in Alderney.

13. *EMBERIZA CITRINELLA.*

Ushant. The Yellow Bunting is also a common and resident species.

Alderney. Common.

14. *ALAUDA ARVENSIS.*

Ushant. Though most abundant during the autumn passage, the Sky-Lark is also fairly common as a resident species. Great numbers are said to visit the islands during severe winters and when the mainland is under snow.

Alderney. Common.

15. MOTACILLA ALBA.

Ushant. The White Wagtail was numerous as a bird of passage during our sojourn on the island. It was to be seen in parties of from 20 to 30; and on some occasions we saw as many as 200 during our rambles. There were probably several hundreds on the island on certain days during our visit.

Le Conquet. Several were seen on September 8th.

16. MOTACILLA LUGUBRIS.

Alderney. The Pied Wagtail was quite common, and observed, either singly or in family parties, between September 22nd and 28th.

Mr. Cecil Smith does not mention this species for Alderney, but remarks on its scarcity in Guernsey.

17. MOTACILLA MELANOPE.

Ushant. The Grey Wagtail was far from common on the island; but several were observed on passage on the 10th and 11th of September and carefully identified.

Alderney. Not uncommon. This Wagtail is not mentioned for Alderney by Mr. Cecil Smith (*op. cit.* p. 64).

18. MOTACILLA RAIL.

Ushant. The Yellow Wagtail was very common on passage during the time we were on the island—September 9th–16th. The birds observed were chiefly young of the year, but many fine old males were conspicuous among the bands of migrants of this species.

Le Conquet. A large flock observed on September 8th.

Alderney. Very numerous as a bird of passage during our stay—September 22nd–28th. Mr. Cecil Smith (*op. cit.* p. 65) describes this bird as being only an occasional visitant on migration. This may be true for the other islands, but it certainly is not the case in Alderney, for which island, by the way, he does not mention this species.

19. ANTHUS PRATENSIS.

Ushant. The Meadow-Pipit was a very common bird on

the island. It is a resident (or breeding) species, but is most abundant as a bird of passage.

Alderney. Very common during our stay.

20. ANTHUS OBSCURUS.

Ushant. The Rock-Pipit was very numerous, and is, perhaps, a resident species in the congenial haunts afforded by the island.

Le Conquet. Common on the coast on September 8th.

Alderney. Very abundant.

21. PARUS CÆRULEUS.

Le Conquet. September 8th. Several Blue Tits seen.

Alderney. Only once observed—namely, a single bird on the 27th of September. Mr. Cecil Smith is quite right in describing this bird as by no means numerous in the Channel Islands.

22. REGULUS CRISTATUS.

Alderney. There were arrivals of Goldcrests on the nights of the 25th and 26th of September, and many were seen in the hedgerows on the following days.

Mr. Cecil Smith (*op. cit.* p. 54) doubts whether the numbers of this bird are regularly increased in the autumn by migrants in the Channel Islands. There are, however, no suitable haunts for this bird in Alderney, and it was not seen until after the immigration, which occurred on the night of the 25th of September.

23. PHYLLOSCOPUS RUFUS.

Le Conquet. The notes of the Chiffchaff were heard in a garden on the 8th of September.

Alderney. Several were observed and heard among the other immigrants which put in an appearance on the 25th and 26th of September.

Mr. Cecil Smith has no information regarding this bird in Alderney, where it is only a bird of passage, owing to a lack of suitable breeding-haunts.

24. PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS.

Le Conquet. Several Willow-Warblers were noted in the vicinity on September 8th.

Alderney. Many observed on the 25th, 26th, and 27th of September, having arrived with other immigrants on the nights of the two first-named dates.

This bird is not mentioned by Mr. Cecil Smith for Alderney.

25. SYLVIA CINEREA.

Ushant. Several Whitethroats were seen; and the species is undoubtedly a summer visitor, as well as a bird of passage, on the island.

Le Conquet. Several were seen on the 8th of September.

Alderney. Was still common up to the 28th of September.

26. TURDUS VISCIVORUS.

Alderney. A few Missel-Thrushes on passage were seen in the hedgerows, in company with a number of immigrant species, on the 25th and 26th of September.

27. TURDUS MUSICUS.

Le Conquet. Several Song-Thrushes were observed in the wooded districts on the 8th of September.

Alderney. Many were noted on the 25th and 26th of September, having arrived on the island during the previous nights.

28. TURDUS ILIACUS.

Ushant. Four Redwings were seen, and their notes heard, in the north of the island on the 10th of September. This date is decidedly an early one on which to find this bird so far to the south. Many Redwings, however, depart from Iceland during the early days of this month.

29. TURDUS MERULA.

Alderney. On the 25th and 26th of September many immigrant Blackbirds, chiefly birds of the year, were observed, having arrived during the previous night.

30. TURDUS TORQUATUS.

A single Ring-Ouzel was seen on the 22nd of September.

On the 26th several were observed in the hedgerows along with other immigrants, having arrived overnight. These birds were again noted on the 27th.

31. ERITHACUS RUBECULA.

Ushant. The Redbreast is fairly common and resident in the island. It was chiefly observed in the neighbourhood of houses, but by no means confined thereto.

Le Conquet. Several, September 8th.

Alderney. Common.

32. SAXICOLA GENANTHE.

Ushant. The Wheatear was very abundant as a bird of passage during our sojourn on the island—Sept. 9th to 17th. A few males were seen showing traces of the summer dress, but the great majority of the birds seen were in the plumage of the female.

Le Conquet. Sept. 8th. Several on the coast.

Alderney. Sept. 22nd to 28th. Still common.

33. PRATINCOLA RUBETRA.

Ushant. A young male Whinchat appeared on the 11th of September, and was the only bird of this species that came under our notice on the island.

Alderney. Single birds were observed on the 22nd and 27th of September.

34. PRATINCOLA RUBICOLA.

Ushant. The Stonechat was surprisingly abundant; indeed we have never seen this species elsewhere in anything like the numbers. There must have been at least a couple of hundred of them on this small island.

It is doubtless a resident species, finding congenial haunts in the numerous compounds in which whin is cultivated.

Le Conquet. Several seen on the 8th of September.

Alderney. Very common, September 22nd to 28th.

35. ACCENTOR MODULARIS.

Ushant. The Hedge-Accentor is a common resident,

frequenting the whin-enclosures and the neighbourhood of the houses.

Le Conquet. Several observed on September 8th.

Alderney. Common.

36. TROGLODYTES PARVULUS.

Ushant. The Wren was a common bird among the whin-enclosures, and is probably a resident on the island.

Le Conquet. Was observed on September 8th.

Alderney. Common.

37. MUSCICAPA GRISOLA.

Alderney. The Spotted Flycatcher was numerous in the hedgerows on the 25th and 26th of September, along with various immigrants, of which it was undoubtedly one.

Mr. Cecil Smith (*op. cit.* p. 24) says that this bird probably occurs in Alderney.

38. MUSCICAPA ATRICAPILLA.

Alderney. A Pied Flycatcher was distinctly seen by Mr. Laidlaw and myself, independently, on the morning of the 27th of September. It was in a tall hedge, with Ring-Ouzels, Blackbirds, Goldcrests, Willow-Wrens, and other migrants, and was in "female" plumage.

This species has no place in Mr. Cecil Smith's book, and I am unable to state whether it is new to Alderney and other of the Channel Islands.

39. HIRUNDO RUSTICA.

Ushant. The Swallow is a summer visitor, in limited numbers, to the island, and had not departed at the date of our exit.

Le Conquet and Alderney. Was observed commonly.

40. CHELIDON URBICA.

Le Conquet and Alderney. The Martin was observed at both places, but did not appear to be an abundant species at Alderney at the time of our visit.

41. COTILE RIPARIA.

Le Conquet. The Sand-Martin was observed on September 8th.

Alderney. Not uncommon during the last week of September. Mr. Cecil Smith (*op. cit.* p. 108) regards this species as a spring visitor, not remaining to breed.

42. *GECCINUS VIRIDIS*.

Le Conquet. Common.

43. *ALCEDO ISPIDA*.

Ushant. The Kingfisher was surprisingly abundant all round the rocky coasts of the island, and appeared to be quite at home at the base of the highest cliffs, or on the margins of the surf-washed creeks on the rugged western shore. No doubt the extraordinary abundance of fish and the crystal clearness of the sea were the attractions which had induced more than *fifty* of these birds to seek out these singular haunts. The great majority of the birds noted were adults, and were chiefly, almost always, observed in pairs. The conclusions to be drawn from these facts might lead one to consider that the Kingfisher was a resident species, breeding in more or less suitable places in the cliffs. This surely cannot be the case? It seems more probable that the bird is an autumn and winter visitor to Ushant.

Le Conquet and Alderney. Not uncommon on the coast

44. *CIRCUS CYANEUS*.

Ushant. From September 9th to 14th we saw a "ring-tailed" Hen-Harrier daily. It chiefly frequented the cliffs, from which it occasionally made foraging excursions inland.

Le Conquet. On the 8th of September we saw a Harrier, also a female, cross the estuary at Le Conquet, when it caused much concern among the Carrion-Crows and Jackdaws.

45. *ACCIPITER NISUS*.

Ushant. Single migratory Sparrow-Hawks were observed on several occasions between the 10th and 16th of September.

46. *FALCO PEREGRINUS*.

Ushant. A pair of Peregrine Falcons is resident on the cliffs of the island, and the birds were observed by us almost daily.

Alderney. On September 20th one was noted on the south cliff.

47. *FALCO ÆSALON.*

Alderney. A Merlin was seen at the west end of the island on September 23rd, doubtless a migrant.

48. *FALCO TINNUNCULUS.*

Ushant. Migratory Kestrels were not uncommon, and several were seen daily during our stay on the island—September 9th–17th.

Le Conquet. Observed.

Alderney. Extremely abundant during the last weeks in September. Eight or nine were seen on the wing simultaneously, and a considerable number—a score or two—must have been present on several days. These birds were undoubtedly migrants, and were probably attracted by the abundance of a coleopteron rejoicing in the name of the “bloody-nosed beetle” (*Timarcha* sp.). The late Mr. Smith doubted whether the numbers of this bird were at all increased during the migratory season in the Channel Islands. His remark certainly does not apply to Alderney, where we saw a score of different individuals in a few minutes on several occasions.

49. *PANDION HALIAËTUS.*

Ushant. On September the 9th an Osprey was observed quite close to our steamer, on leaving the island of Molène for Ushant.

50. *PHALACROCORAX CARBO.*

Ushant. The Cormorant was very abundant at the period of our visit. It is probably a winter visitor to Ushant and the adjacent islands, arriving early in the autumn.

Le Conquet. Common.

Alderney. Very abundant. Mr. Cecil Smith regarded this species as uncommon in the Channel Islands, being replaced there by the Shag: a species which did not come under our notice on Alderney.

51. PHALACROCORAX GRACULUS.

Ushant. Though the Shag was a common bird on the rocks around Ushant, yet it was not nearly so numerous as its congener the Cormorant. Like the latter bird, it is doubtless an autumn and winter visitor to the archipelago.

Le Conquet. The same remarks apply to Le Conquet and neighbouring coast.

52. ARDEA CINEREA.

Ushant. Single examples of the Heron were observed on the 12th and 13th of September. This bird is probably only an occasional visitor to the island, since there are few suitable shallows in which to capture prey.

53. COLUMBA PALUMBUS.

Le Conquet. The Ring-Dove was observed in some numbers in the woods in the immediate neighbourhood.

54. COLUMBA LIVIA.

Alderney. One was seen in company with some Jackdaws on the south cliffs on the 24th of September.

Mr. Cecil Smith never observed the Rock-Dove on any of the islands, though he was of opinion that a few might yet remain in Alderney.

55. TURTUR COMMUNIS.

Ushant. Single migratory Turtle-Doves were observed on the east side of the island on the 10th and 13th of September.

Alderney. A pair noted on the 22nd, and a single bird on the 25th of September, were undoubtedly birds of passage.

56. PERDIX CINEREA.

Le Conquet. A covey of Partridges were seen near Le Conquet on the 8th of September.

57. RALLUS AQUATICUS.

Alderney. I twice put a Water-Rail out of a ditch on the 26th of September. There is an absence of suitable haunts for this bird on the island, and there can be little doubt that it was a recent arrival.

Mr. C. Smith makes no mention of this species for Alderney.

58. *CREX PRATENSIS.*

Alderney. One Land-Rail was seen on the south coast on the 23rd of September, and another on the 26th.

59. *CHARADRIUS PLUVIALIS.*

Alderney. Two Golden Plovers were seen on the 23rd of September, several on the 26th, and five were resting on the sands at Longey Bay on the 27th. It is a bird of passage and winter visitor to the islands.

60. *EUDROMIAS MORINELLUS.*

Ushant. Single examples of the Dotterel were observed on the western side of the island on the 14th and 15th of September; possibly the same bird was seen on each occasion. When first noted it was on the wing; on the second it allowed a close approach while resting, and flew off uttering its unmusical note.

61. *ÆGIALITIS HIATICOLA.*

Ushant. The Ringed Plover was quite a common and doubtless a resident species on the island—finding on the arid tracts a suitable breeding-ground, in the almost entire absence of littoral haunts.

Le Conquet and Alderney. Common.

62. *VANELLUS VULGARIS.*

Ushant. Five Lapwings arrived at Ushant on the night of the 9th of September and remained during our visit. This species is mentioned by the light-keepers as being very common, both as a bird of passage and as a winter visitor to the island.

63. *STREPSILAS INTERPRES.*

Ushant. The Turnstone finds many congenial haunts along the rock-bound shores of Ushant, and was quite common during our stay. It was often seen feeding inland along with Ringed Plovers and a few Sanderlings, being attracted by the coleoptera which abounded on the island.

Le Conquet. Common on the margins of the estuary and on the coast.

Alderney. Fairly common.

64. HÆMATOPUS OSTRALEGUS.

Ushant. Common as an autumn migrant and winter visitor; and possibly also breeds, along with the Ringed Plover, on the arid stony tract adjoining the shore on the west side of the island.

Le Conquet and Alderney. Common.

65. GALLINAGO CŒLESTIS.

Alderney. A single Snipe was observed on the 25th of September. This bird is a winter visitor to the islands, but *Alderney* offers few, if any, attractions to this and other paludal species.

66. TRINGA ALPINA.

Le Conquet. The Dunlin was very abundant on the estuary on the 8th of September. It is, no doubt, a bird of double passage and also a winter visitor there.

Alderney. Two were seen on the sands of Longey Bay on the 27th of September.

67. TRINGA SUBARQUATA.

Le Conquet. The Curlew-Sandpiper was quite an abundant species on the margins and moist islands of the estuary on the 8th of September. This species is a bird of passage on the west coast of Brittany.

68. TRINGA CANUTUS.

Le Conquet. The Knot was also numerous on the shores of the moist islands of the estuary on the 8th of September. It is doubtless both a bird of passage and a winter visitor.

69. MACHETES PUGNAX.

Le Conquet. Several Ruffs and Reeves were feeding on the shores of the estuary on the 8th of September.

70. CALIDRIS ARENARIA.

Ushant. A few Sanderlings were observed during our stay. These were in small parties of two, three, or four

individuals, consorting with the Ringed Plovers and Turnstones, and along with them seeking their food on the barren, stony land immediately adjoining the shore, on which a small species of beetle was numerous.

71. TOTANUS HYPOLEUCUS.

Ushant. The Common Sandpiper was extremely abundant as a bird of passage throughout our visit. It frequented chiefly the edge of the water, and was as numerous at the foot of the highest cliffs as elsewhere. On the 10th of September we computed that no less than 60 of these birds came under our notice. One was seen at sea between Le Conquet and Molène on the 9th of September.

Le Conquet. Common on the estuary and on the coast on September 8th.

Alderney. A few seen daily on the coast up to the 28th of September, the day of our departure.

72. TOTANUS CALIDRIS.

Ushant. The island offered few inducements to the Redshank, and hence one or two, seen singly, were all that visited the island during our sojourn.

Le Conquet. September 8th. Fairly common on the estuary.

73. TOTANUS CANESCENS.

Le Conquet. The Greenshank was not at all uncommon on the streams at the head of the estuary, where it was engaged wading in the shallows in search of food (September 8th).

74. NUMENIUS PHÆOPUS.

Ushant. This bird was seen daily on passage on all the coasts of the island, and was quite an abundant species.

Le Conquet. The Whimbrel was common on the muds on September 8th.

75. NUMENIUS ARQUATA.

Ushant. The Curlew was one of the most numerous species observed. It was to be seen daily in parties, sometimes 100 strong, feeding on the parched land,

where small beetles were very numerous at the time. The presence of these insects induced, no doubt, these birds to tarry on the island in such numbers.

Le Conquet. Common on the muds.

Alderney. Not an abundant species.

76. STERNA MACRURA.

Ushant. Terns were abundant off the island during our visit; but it was not until the 14th of September that we identified *Sterna macrura*. On that day we watched a number of Arctic Terns as they rested on a rock just off the south coast of the island. Among these we detected no fewer than ten individuals in that stage of adolescent plumage which led Mr. Ridgway to describe this bird as a distinct species under the name of *Sterna portlandica*. There was no doubt as to their identity, for, as if to oblige us, some of them continually left the rock to alight on the shore just at our feet. We may, I think, fairly assume from this that there were many more of these interesting birds around Ushant and the neighbouring islands.

77. STERNA FLUVIATILIS.

Ushant. Very common. Many old birds were still observed engaged in feeding their young, while the latter rested on the rocks off the coast—a fact which indicates that there is a breeding-station of this species near at hand, perhaps on the Isle of Balance, north of Molène, where we were informed that the “Hirondelle de mer” bred in some numbers.

78. STERNA MINUTA.

Ushant. The Little Tern was observed off Molène on the 9th of September, and was not uncommon off Ushant during our visit.

79. STERNA CANTIACA.

Ushant. Not uncommon throughout our stay, and also observed off Molène.

Le Conquet. A few Sandwich Terns were seen off the coast on the 8th and 9th of September.

80. LARUS RIDIBUNDUS.

Le Conquet. Not uncommon on the estuary on September 8th, but not observed at or off Ushant.

81. LARUS CANUS.

Ushant. Not uncommon on the coast and on the outlying rocks, to which the Common Gull is an autumn and winter visitor.

82. LARUS ARGENTATUS.

Ushant. Common off the coast and also at Molène. The Herring-Gull is an autumn and winter visitor to Ushant.

Alderney. Common.

83. LARUS FUSCUS.

Ushant. The Lesser Black-backed Gull was quite common on the coast, and was also observed at Molène.

Le Conquet. Common.

Alderney. A few only observed.

84. LARUS MARINUS.

Ushant. Fairly common off the island and at Molène.

Alderney. The Great Black-backed Gull was not uncommon at sea around the island.

85. RISSA TRIDACTYLA.

Ushant. Young and old Kittiwakes were not uncommon on the stacks and rocks after the 14th of September, on which day they made their appearance off the island, along with the Arctic Tern.

Alderney. A number seen off the island on the 28th of September.

86. PUFFINUS ANGLORUM.

Ushant. This Shearwater was very abundant on the 9th and 17th of September, when we were *en route* for, and returning from, Ushant. It was chiefly observed when some little distance from land.

This bird was very numerous off the Casquets on the 30th of September. Mr. Cecil Smith tells us that it is an occasional wanderer to the Channel Islands.

87. *Puffinus gravis* O'Reilly.

Ushant. When just off Ushant and Le Conquet, and *en route* for Molène on September 17th, six Great Shearwaters were seen, either singly or in pairs, fairly close to the steamer. Off the Casquets, on September 30th, one was seen along with the Manx Shearwaters.

XVI.—*On new Species of Birds obtained in Kan-su by M. Berezovsky.* By H. E. DRESSER and E. DELMAR MORGAN.

IN 1884 Mr. M. Berezovsky went as ornithologist on the expedition led by Mr. G. N. Potanin to explore North-west China, and when the expedition returned, thanks to the generosity of Mr. W. P. Sukatscheff, he was able to continue his explorations for another year. The result of his scientific labours has been embodied in a work by Messrs. Berezovsky and Bianchi, in Russian, entitled 'Ptitsi Kansuskago Puteshestviya G. N. Potanina' (St. Petersburg, 1891), or 'The Birds of the Potanin Expedition through the Province of Kan-su and the adjacent Country.' In this work six new species of birds are described, but the descriptions, being in Russian only, are unavailable to most Western ornithologists. Consequently, at my suggestion, Mr. E. Delmar Morgan has kindly translated these descriptions, and forwarded his translation to me to revise for the press. It proved, however, to be too long for publication in that form in 'The Ibis,' and I have therefore undertaken to condense it and bring it into such shape as to enable the Editors of this Journal to accept it. Fortunately, of these six species there are co-types of two (*Trochalopteron sukatschewi* and *Pœcile davidi*) in the Tring Museum, which have been placed at my disposal by the Hon. Walter Rothschild for examination and description. The descriptions of the other four species are translated from the Russian.—
H. E. D.